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SOURCE Khandaniha.IRANIAN-USSR BORDER CLASH

The following information was obtained from the 13 January 1953 issue of Khandaniha. The periodical attributes the information to an unspecified issue of Etelaaft Haftgi. Etelaaft Haftgi is a weekly periodical published in Tehran by the daily newspaper Etelaaft.

It was reported that in early January, Iranian and USSR border troops in the vicinity of Baiat Haji  $[37^{\circ} 30' N-54^{\circ} 45' E]$  exchanged fire on several occasions. The first shot was fired by the Soviet border troops at Baiat Haji and shooting soon spread to various posts along the border. The Soviet troops were, for the most part, firing into the river and its banks from the tops of the border towers, but at one point, the Soviets and Iranians were firing at each other.

As soon as Colonel Yarjani of the Iranian borderguards at Atrak heard of this incident, he went to Dashbrun [not further identified], one of the locations at which the firing was taking place, where he was informed that the shooting had been going on since the previous night.

When Colonel Yarjani arrived at Dashbrun, word was spread among the Turkomen [inhabitants of this area] that a fight between Soviet and Iranian troops was going to start and that it would threaten their security.

At 1000 hours, after Colonel Yarjani had arrived, the Iranians hoisted a white flag over a minaret located north of Dashbrun, indicating that they wanted to talk with the Soviet border troops. The raising of a white flag is the customary procedure when either of the border contingents wants to discuss any subject with the other.

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Within 10 minutes, firing had ceased all along the border, and Colonel Yarjani, accompanied by one aide, met with a Soviet official and an interpreter on a wooden bridge linking Dashbrun and Baiat Haji.

At this meeting, the Soviets stated that US military officials had been taking photographs of Soviet territory from Kamish Tepeh [not further identified] and from the vicinity of the Musa Khan River [not further identified], contrary to the treaty and protocols existing between the two countries. Therefore, the Soviets continued, they were forced to take steps to prevent such action. The Soviets also stated that a formal note would be sent through the Soviet Foreign Ministry to the Iranian government.

The Iranians replied that there were no US photographers along the Atrek frontier and that the incident was the result of a misunderstanding on the part of a Soviet military official.

Investigation of the Soviet claim revealed the presence of two agricultural engineers who had arrived in this region to study the possibility of utilizing the waters of the Atrek River and that the Soviets had mistaken them for US photographers.

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